

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, NATO

SUBJECT: U.S. POLICY TOWARDS GREECE

1. FROM THE VANTAGE POINT OF USNATO, IT APPEARS THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN GREECE AND DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN GREECE AND ITS NATO ALLIES, INCLUDING TURKEY, POSE SERIOUS QUESTIONS CONCERNING PRESENT U.S. POLICIES TOWARDS THE CURRENT GREEK GOVERNMENT. I RECOMMEND THAT A REVIEW OF THOSE POLICIES BE UNDERTAKEN. IF SUCH A REVIEW IS ALREADY UNDERWAY, I WOULD APPRECIATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE NATO ASPECTS.

2. BRIEFLY, IT APPEARS TO ME THAT GREECE IS BEING STEADILY WEAKENED ON ALL FRONTS--POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY-- BY THE LACK OF COMPETENCE OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, EVEN MORE IMPORTANT AND MORE BASIC IS THE FAILURE OF THE GREEK MILITARY TO MOVE GREECE, IF NOT TOWARDS REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY, AT LEAST TOWARDS A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT BEHIND WHICH SOME KIND OF REASONABLE CONSENSUS CAN BE FORMED. NOTE, FOR EXAMPLE, ITEM FIVE DIA MESSAGE 190305Z APR 74. IF THIS PROCESS CONTINUES, IMPORTANT U.S. STRATEGIC INTERESTS COULD BE PUT IN JEOPARDY. FOR EXAMPLE, INSTABILITY IN GREECE MAY GENERATE A PERMANENT STATE OF TENSION OR WORSE-- BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY.

3. IN ADDITION, I BELIEVE THERE IS A CASE TO BE MADE FOR A U.S. POSITION OF RESPONSIBLE AND MEASURED CRITICISM OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN GREECE, TO ACCOMPANY ACTIONS WE ARE TAKING

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PRIVATELY TO NUDGE THOSE WHO HOLD POWER IN GREECE, AND THOSE OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE WHO CAN INFLUENCE OFFICE HOLDERS, TOWARDS SOME MEASURE OF LIBERALIZATION. THE MAJORITY OF THE ALLIES, SPEARHEADED BY THE SCANDINAVIANS, THE DUTCH

AND POSSIBLY THE BRITISH, MAY OTHERWISE TAKE A
PUBLIC STANCE TOWARDS GREECE WHICH COULD UNFAVORABLY AFFECT THE
POSSIBILITIES FOR A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER IN GREECE AND WHICH
WOULD INTRODUCE FURTHER SERIOUS DIVISIONS INTO THE ALLIANCE.

4. IN SUM, THEREFORE, IT APPEARS TO ME THAT BOTH PUBLICLY AND
PRIVATELY THE UNITED STATES WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE AND
WITH OUR ALLIES IN NATO SHOULD BE ASSUMING A POSTURE OF
GREATER CONCERN ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF
THE DISTURBING TRENDS NOW EVIDENT IN GREECE. I WOULD WELCOME
AMBASSADOR TASCA'S COMMENTS.
RUMSFELD

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